

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037001

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, MA

SU: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TANANARIVE 0074

1. IN PREPARING DRAFT "INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT",
NASA HAS CONCLUDED THAT ALTERNATE APPROACH MAY BE DESIRABLE.
SINCE AGREEMENT WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED
THROUGH CONTRACT AS BASIS FOR PAYMENT TO DPT, NASA NOW
PROPOSES IN LIEU OF FORMAL "INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT" BETWEEN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING CONTRACT TO
HAVE SIMPLY SERIES OF CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AT PRESENT WE ENVISAGE THREE SUCH CONTRACTS: (A) AN
"INTERIM" CONTRACT TO BEGIN WORKING DIALOGUE AT OPERATING
LEVEL (AND WHICH COULD BE INITIATED BEFORE INTERGOVERN-
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MENTAL AGREEMENT SIGNED) TO PAY DPT EXPENSES PRIMARILY TRAVEL

TO U.S. INCURRED IN NEGOTIATING THE PLAN FOR TRANSFER AND FINAL "CONTRACT SCHEDULE", (B) A CONTRACT FOR SOME PORTION OF STATION OPERATIONS TO BE DONE BY DPT, SUCH CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED AS SOON AFTER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT IS SIGNED AS PRACTICABLE, AND (C) FINAL "CONTRACT SCHEDULE" OR WORK PACKAGE WHICH WOULD DEFINE THE WORK WHICH DPT WOULD PERFORM FOR NASA WHEN STATION TOTALLY OPERATED BY DPT.

3. THE FINAL "CONTRACT SCHEDULE" THEN WOULD BECOME THE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT IN A SENSE. IT WOULD INCLUDE DEFINITION OF THE FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER, AND THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY PERSONNEL SUCH AS THE MALAGASY STATION DIRECTOR.

4. THIS PHASED APPROACH DESIGNED TO ALLOW PROGRESS TO CONTINUE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, HOPEFULLY LEADING TO PROMPT CONCLUSION AND SIGNATURE AND AT SAME TIME GET WORKING LEVEL DPT INVOLVED IN EDUCATION PROCESS OF STATION OPERATIONS WHICH IS NEEDED BEFORE FINAL "CONTRACT SCHEDULE" CAN BE FINALIZED.

5. THIS WOULD ALSO HOPEFULLY SHOW NASA'S GOOD FAITH IN MOVING TOWARD TURNOVER, BEGIN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE OPERATING PARTNERS AND PERHAPS DIFFUSE A BIT THE POLITICAL ASPECTS.

6. DRAFTS OF THE INTERIM CONTRACT AND FIRST CUT OF NASA'S VIEW OF "CONTRACT SCHEDULE" HAVE BEEN SENT TO STADIR EDELINE FOR DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY.

7. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEW ON THIS REVISED PROCEDURE INCLUDING JUDGEMENT WHETHER THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOMR OR WHETHER MFA OR DPT WOULD INSIST ON NEGOTIATING AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT AS PART OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS.

8. FYI H. WOOD, GSFC ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND H. MCKEEHAN, GSFC PLAN ARRIVE TANANARIVE LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS/NEGOTIATIONS WITH DPT. BOTH WILL MEET WITH EMBASSY UPON ARRIVAL. END FYI

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9. NASA WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH DPT UNTIL EMBASSY COMMENTS/ASSESSMENT RECEIVED AND EVALUATED. INGERSOLL

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